RESOLUTION: F2019-SR1
TITLE: Resolution in Support of the Global Strike for Climate Justice
SPONSOR: Varsha Vijayakumar, President; Samuel Lyons, Junior Senator
DATE: September 11, 2019

Whereas, the planet's surface has warmed by 1.3°–1.6° Fahrenheit per century since 1901, and the rate of warming has nearly doubled since 1975 to 2.7°–3.2° Fahrenheit per century[1];

Whereas, youth climate activist Greta Thunberg has called for worldwide strikes for the climate starting on September 20th, 2019, which is three days before the UN Climate Summit in New York City[2];

Whereas, the September 20th worldwide strike will kickstart a week of climate action;

Whereas, people in at least 150 countries have planned organizing efforts in preparation for the global climate strike[3];

Whereas, there are over 300 climate strikes happening in the United States alone[4];

Whereas, students around the world have committed to participate in the strike, and the NYC Public School system has excused all absences of students participating in the Climate Strike[5];

Whereas, climate activist groups in the state of Vermont such as 350Vermont, Extinction Rebellion, and Climate Disobedience Center have formed a coalition to organize a mass strike calling for climate justice and an end to the age of fossil fuels;

Whereas, organizers from Middlebury's Sunday Night Environmental Group have organized to involve and include the College in the week of climate action;

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[1] https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-global-temperature
[2] https://globalclimatestrike.net/greta-thunbergs-invitation-stand-with-us-on-september-20-and-beyond/
[3] https://globalclimatestrike.net/
[4] https://strikewithus.org/
[5] https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/09/12/holy-smokes-thing-could-get-huge-nyc-public-schools-let-students-climatestrike

Whereas, on January 29, 2019, Middlebury College announced Energy2028, a ten-year commitment to combat climate change[6];

Whereas, the values behind the worldwide climate strike are consistent with Middlebury's own value of sustainability;

Therefore, be it resolved…

That, Middlebury College stands with those striking in their demands for a just and rapid transition away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy for all, and in their demands for climate legislation that center on indigenous self-determination, racial justice, livable wages and union jobs;

That, the College support students and employees demanding an end to all new fossil fuel infrastructure and an end to all fossil fuel dependence;

That, the College support strikers in their demands for:

1. Comprehensive and immediate solutions to the climate crisis that are rooted in respect for and dignity of all people.
2. A commitment to keeping fossil fuels in the ground and an end to new fossil fuel projects.
3. A just and inclusive movement that centers on frontline communities most affected by intersecting and overlapping oppressions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Varsha Vijayakumar, SGA President
Samuel Lyons, Junior Senator
Cora Kircher, Co-manager of Sunday Night Environmental Group
Raechel Zeller, Co-Director of SGA Environmental Affairs Committee
Emma Clinton, Co-Director of SGA Environmental Affairs Committee

[6] http://www.middlebury.edu/sustainability/our-commitment/energy2028